

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia  
SUBJECT Paratroop Training at Mimon

REPORT

DATE DISTR. 1 June 1953

NO. OF PAGES 13 25X1

REQUIREMENT 25X1

REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE ACQUIRED

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

Paratroop Training Areas

1. [ ] the location of paratroop camps and training areas, [Annex A] 25X1  
in the Mimon [ 5038 N - 1444 E ] area. [The numbers below refer to the numbers  
on Annex A.]

Point #1. Mimon Airfield.

#2. Paratrooper's Training Area.

#3. Zakupy Paratroop camp: [ ] 25X1

The camp site was a former monastery.

- #3. Paratroop Camp: Approximately 400 m. south of the highway to Hamr, which is northeast of Mimon, and approximately 200 m. southeast of Straz Pod Ralskem [ 5042N-1448E ]. The camp has been located at this site in a coniferous forest since 1949. This is a relatively new forest of trees approximately four to five meters high. The camp consisted of a number of buildings, all one-story, wooden (dark green), tar-papered, with gable-type roofs and with trees between the buildings.

25X1

SECRET

STATE	#x	ARMY	#x	NAVY	#x	AIR	#x	FBI	AEC		
-------	----	------	----	------	----	-----	----	-----	-----	--	--

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X". Field Distribution By "d")

25 YEAR  
RE-REVIEW

25X1

454

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

-2-

Point #5. Paratroop Camp: [redacted] 25X1

The camp was located in a coniferous forest approximately 700 m. east of Hamr and 200-300 m. southeast of the highway from Hamr to Breniste. The area was surrounded by a steel mesh fence, approximately three millimeter gauge, which was approximately three meters high. The buildings were dark green wood, single-story, with tar-papered, gable-type roofs.

#6. Lake [redacted] 25X1

2. The numbers below refer to [redacted] the Zakupy paratroop camp 25X1  
ANNEX B/:

Point #1. Highway: Mimon to Ceska Lipa, two-lane, approximately five meters wide. Within the town it was cobblestone; beyond the town limits it was asphalt. 25X1

#2. Wall: Stone, approximately 50 cm. thick, 3 m. high. [redacted]

#3. Entrance Gate: Constructed of wood, approximately five meters wide and four meters high. This entrance was guarded by a paratrooper armed with CZ sub-machine gun.

#4. Barracks: Three story, grey stuccoed brick or stone, approximately 80 x 40 x 17 m., with hip-type roof. There were approximately 200 enlisted men billeted at this camp. The officers lived off the post in Zakupy.

#5. Caserne Area: Cobblestone, 100 x 60 m.

#6. Barracks: [Same as Point #4]

#7. Headquarters Building: Three-story, grey stuccoed brick or stone, approximately 20 x 40 x 17 m., this building contained the commandant's office and staff, and telephone exchange.

#8. Road: Cobblestone, 50 m. long and 5 m. wide. This road branched off the highway from Zakupy to Novy Bor.

#9. Highway: From Zakupy to Novy Bor the highway was cobblestone within the town limits and asphalt outside town limits. Two lane, it was five or six meters in width.

#### Qualifications

3. The paratroopers were volunteers who were required to pass a physical and mental examination. [redacted] The original term of service was two years, but an extension of one year was added in 1950. 25X1

#### Courses of Training

4. Training for the paratroopers included: Jujitsu, boxing, defensive and offensive tactics of close combat fighting, driving all types of civilian and military vehicles (including tanks), survival, tree climbing, tree jumping, jumping from vehicles at speeds of approximately 80 km. per hour, cavalry training, familiarization and qualification firing with various types of small arms, and parachute jumping over all types of terrain.

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

-3-

5. Training and qualification jumps from balloons were made over flat terrain near Kurivody 5035N-1449E. A balloon was raised to 600-700 m.; four to five jumps from the balloon were required to qualify. Paratroopers jumped from aircraft approximately once a week. Paratroopers were taken to the Mimon airfield and boarded two DC-3's. Several times two additional DC-3's were flown in [redacted] to assist in the operation. In large scale exercises planes dropped the paratroopers over their jumping point and returned to the base for additional paratroopers; this continued until all the paratroopers were dropped over the jumping point. For the weekly exercise the paratroopers were taken approximately 80 km. from their camp and dropped in areas containing trees, lakes, rivers, swamps, and rough terrain. These drops were conducted without rations and with a specified time limit for the return of the paratroopers to camp; they were not to be caught (sic) by another paratrooper. Disciplinary action was taken if a paratrooper was caught. Survival training was utilized fully. The paratroopers used only chest-type chutes, which contained canopies of green, rose, white, and camouflage coloring. The majority were white in color. [redacted] 25X1
6. The paratroopers were also taught how to secure prisoners without binding material. This was done by straddling the prisoner's legs to a tree, 25-30 cm. in diameter, while the prisoner was sitting or lying down. The prisoner's legs were then secured in a locked position on the other side of the tree. [redacted] this method [redacted] was impossible for anyone to free himself without aid. If he tried to pull himself up in order to free himself, dislocation or fracture of the leg joints resulted. 25X1
7. Another phase of training was carried out on a combination infiltration and obstacle clearing located near the Mimon airfield. Paratroopers were required to cross (jump) wooden barriers, varying in height from 1½ m. to 6 m. Strips of boards were nailed to the higher barriers and were used as steps. [redacted] machine gun overhead fire was approximately 50 cm. over the barrier. 25X1
8. A group of hand picked paratroopers [redacted] were selected for specialized training in the organization of guerrilla or partisan groups in the West to fight against their native countries. In this group they studied either English or French, history of the country, and customs and habits of the people. Disguising techniques were also taught during the course. [redacted] 25X1
9. Another group was selected for training in safecracking. Upon the discharge of a paratrooper who participated in this course, an entry was made in the Criminal Register of the district court and in police records of the paratrooper's district. In the event of a safe robbery the police could check on all paratroopers who had participated in this training.
10. The paratroopers worked in close coordination with the civilians and SNB. Paratroopers were used to stage mock raids on railroad centers and factories. Prior to a mock raid on a factory, the person in charge of the factory was notified that a raid would be staged on a specific date. He would then warn the factory militia. This same procedure applied to the SNB, which was responsible for the security of railroads. [redacted] Hradiste railroad depot in the Spring of 1950. The paratroopers seized the railroad depot and captured five SNB personnel. In these mock raids the paratroopers were usually dropped a distance from their objective and tried to seize the objective through infiltration. 25X1

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

-4-

11. The paratroopers were also used during maneuvers in conjunction with other branches of the service. They used Ranger methods of seizing equipment and personnel of units participating in the maneuvers.

#### Training Equipment

12. [ ] training equipment used by the paratroopers.

25X1

Annex. C

a. Sketch No. I

Point #1 Ladder, used to reach upper platform

#2 Platform

#3 Slideboard: This board was covered with smooth tin. Paratroopers climbed ladder Point #1 to slideboard Point #3 and slid to the ground.

b. Sketch No. II

Point #1 Platform

#2 Windlass: A rope with harness was attached to the windlass shaft. A large four-bladed fan on one end of this shaft created drag when practice jumps were made.

#3 Jumping Platform: Paratroopers donned the harness and made jumps from this point to the ground.

c. Sketch No. III, Breakdown of windlass and fan blade.

Point #1 Metal Fan Blade

#2 Wooden Braces

#3 Main Shaft of Windlass: Rope and harness were attached to the main shaft.

- d. Sketch No. IV is of an old wooden fuselage mounted on posts approximately one meter above the ground. This fuselage was used for teaching proper procedure for bailing out.

13. Additional training equipment included the following ANNEX D

a. Sketch No. I

Point #1 Wall: front view

#2. Horizontal Strips of Board: Nailed at one meter and used as aids in scaling training.

- b. Sketch No. II shows a bridge-type obstacle approximately 5 m. long and 15 cm. wide. Paratroopers ran up the incline, across the top, and leaped to the ground at opposite end.

- c. Sketch No. III illustrates the jump platform, used for paratrooper jump training. Approximately six of these were in the training area; they varied in height from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 m.

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

-5-

## d. Sketch No. IV

Point #1 Wooden Posts: approximately five meters high.

#2 Iron Hoop

#3 Support Cables: steel, approximately five millimeter gauge, supporting hoop.

#4 Ladder composed of strips of board nailed to a post.

e. Sketch No. V shows a hand and arm strengthening obstacle, which consisted of wooden posts four to eight meters high with a steel cable strung over head; it was used for hand over hand exercise.

Uniforms14. [ ] the summer field uniform of the paratroopers ANNEX. E7. 25X1

Point #1 Blouse: grey-green cotton, choke-type collar (worn choke or roll), oxidized metal buttons, sleeves adjustable at wrist.

#2 Trousers: grey-green cotton (worn tucked into boots) with two additional accordion-pleated expansion-type pockets in the back.

#3 Beret: with enlarged view of insignia worn by officers and enlisted men. Beret was of dark red, soft felt, with band reinforced with leather, and a drawstring for adjusting it.

15. [ ] additional equipment worn with summer field uniform ANNEX. F/. 25X1

Point #1 Boots: (side and bottom views), brown leather, 35 cm. high with rubber sole. Moulds were made of the paratroopers' feet and inserts, made from the moulds, were issued to the troopers to be worn in the boots.

#2 Web Belt: worn on outside of blouse, grey in color.

#3 Knife: combat type, used on training missions.

#4 Paratrooper Insignia: cloth, worn on upper right sleeve just below shoulder.

16. [ ] the parka worn by paratroopers looked like the drawing [ ] ANNEX. G7. 25X1

Point #1. Parka: heavy cotton, hood and body lined with rabbit fur, draw string waist and sleeves. Brown web belt five centimeters wide usually with CSR buckle.

#2 Patch: worn over right side of chest denoting rank of wearer was five to seven centimeters.

a. Officers' patch, stiffly reinforced, light red background with gold stripe approximately two millimeters wide and metal stars. This patch was observed on officers up to the rank of staff captain only.

b. Enlisted men's patch, stiffly reinforced, light red background, black stripes, approximately one centimeter by five centimeters, denoted rank.

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-6-

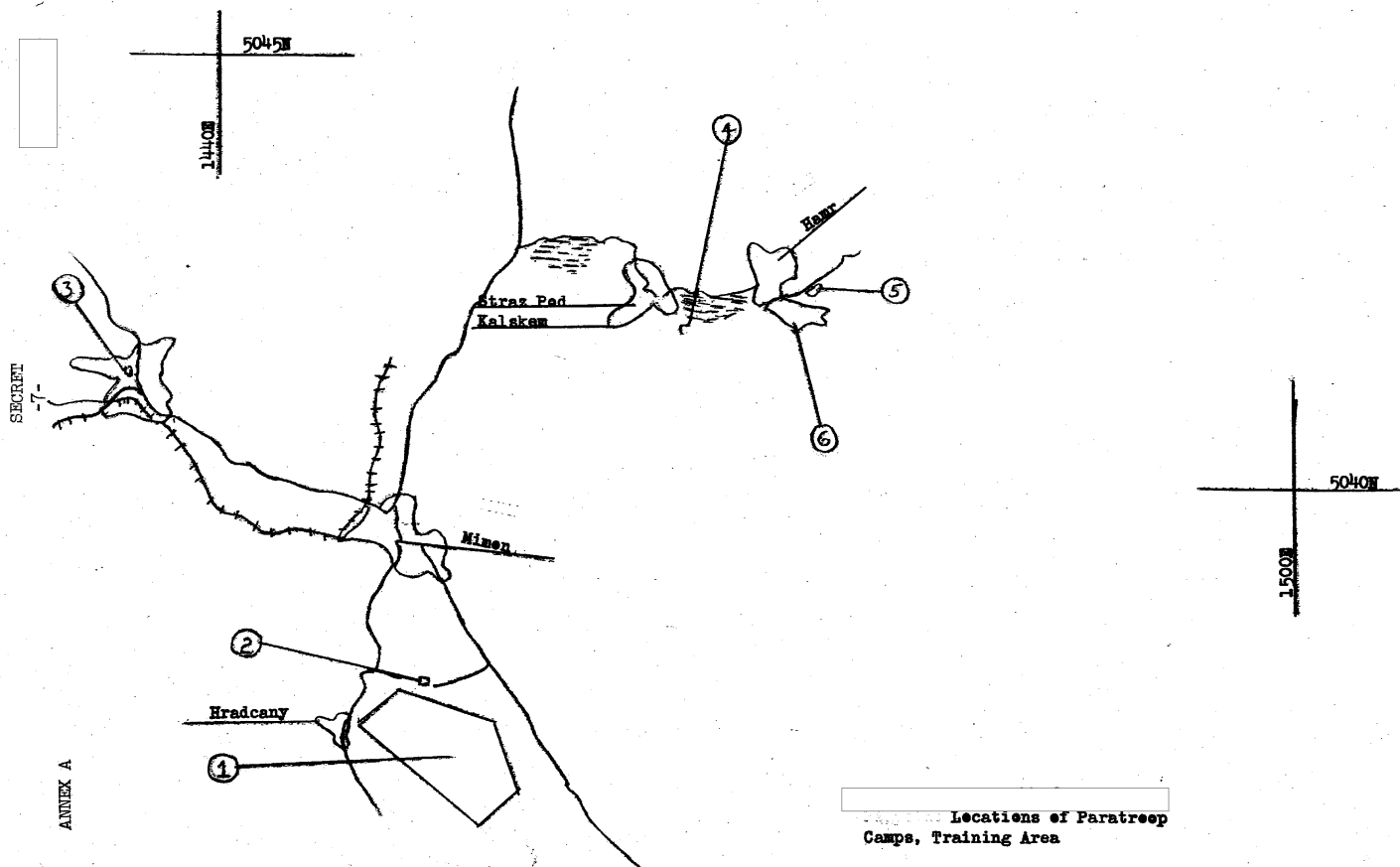
25X1

17. Winter field uniforms for officers and enlisted men were similar to the summer field uniforms except that they were made of a heavier, fuzzy cloth. Dress uniforms for officers were grey-green cotton, type 48. The cap was a grey-green garrison type with red stripe around top border. Shoulder boards were yellow with sides and bottom red; grade was denoted by silver stars with one red stripe for grades up to staff captain and two red stripes for grades of staff captain and above. Silver paratrooper insignia was worn over right blouse pocket (same as cloth insignia). There was a red stripe on the outer seam of the trousers. This uniform is the same type, material, and cut as the regular Czechoslovak infantry dress uniform. The dress uniform for enlisted men was grey-green cotton. The cap was grey-green, overseas type; shoulder boards were red, black stripes denoted rank, and brass-colored metal paratrooper insignia approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  x 2 cm. Metal paratrooper insignia was also worn over right pocket of blouse. This uniform is the same type material and cut as the uniform of the enlisted man in the infantry. Brown low-cut shoes were worn with all dress uniforms.

ANNEXES	A:	<input type="text"/>	Locations of	25X1
		Paratroop Camps, Training Area		
	B:	<input type="text"/>	Sketch of the Zakupy Paratrooper Camp	25X1
	C:	<input type="text"/>	Sketch of Training Equipment	
	D:	<input type="text"/>	Sketch of Training Equipment	
	E:	<input type="text"/>	Sketch of Paratrooper Summer Field Uniform	
	F:	<input type="text"/>	Sketch of Additional Equipment Worn with Summer Uniform	
	G:	<input type="text"/>	Sketch of Parka Worn by Paratroopers	25X1

SECRET

**SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION**

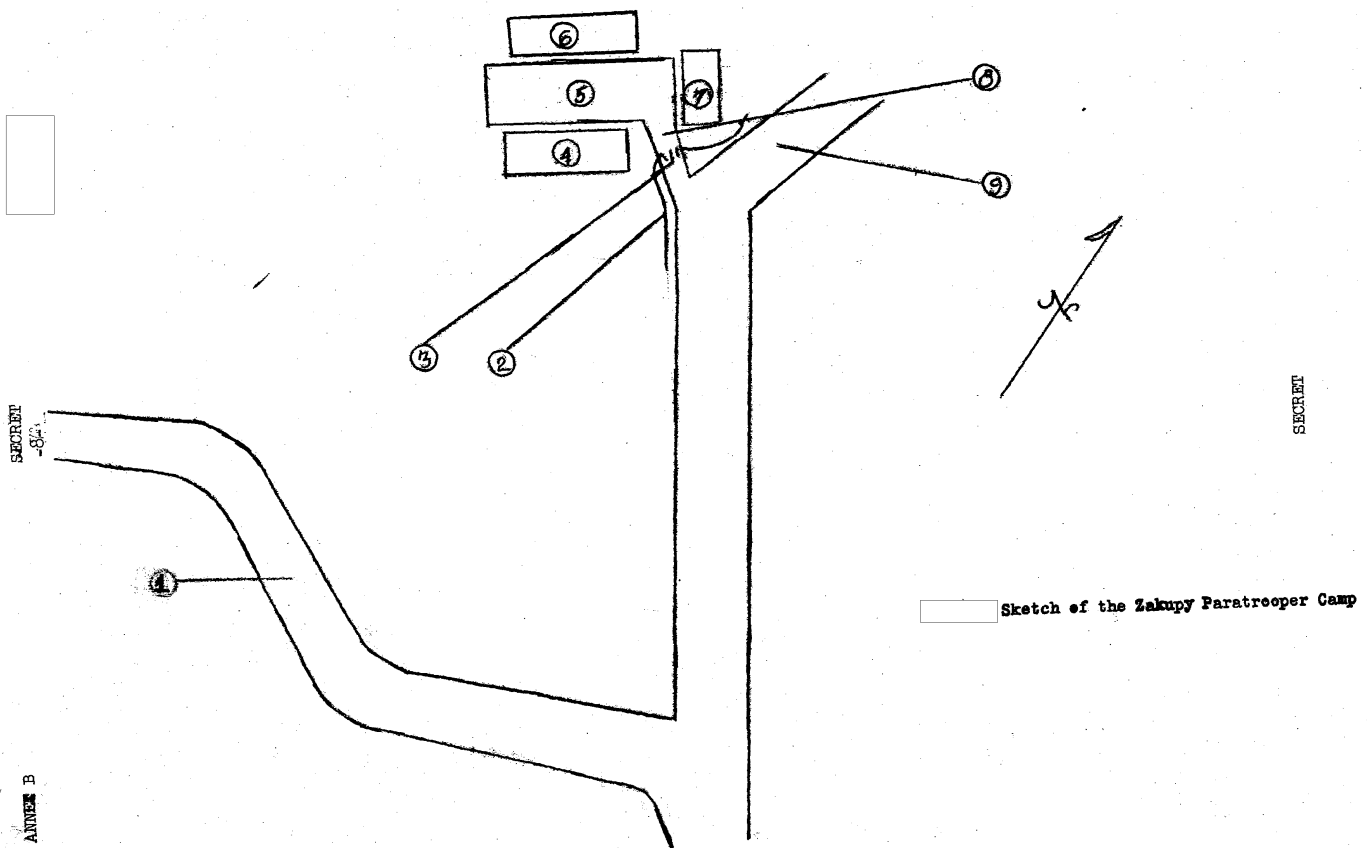


25X1

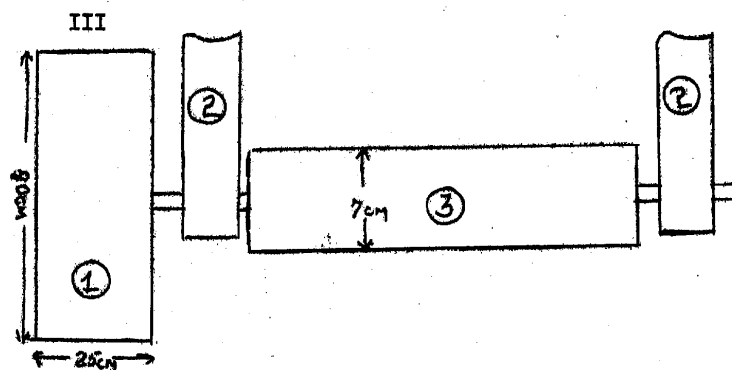
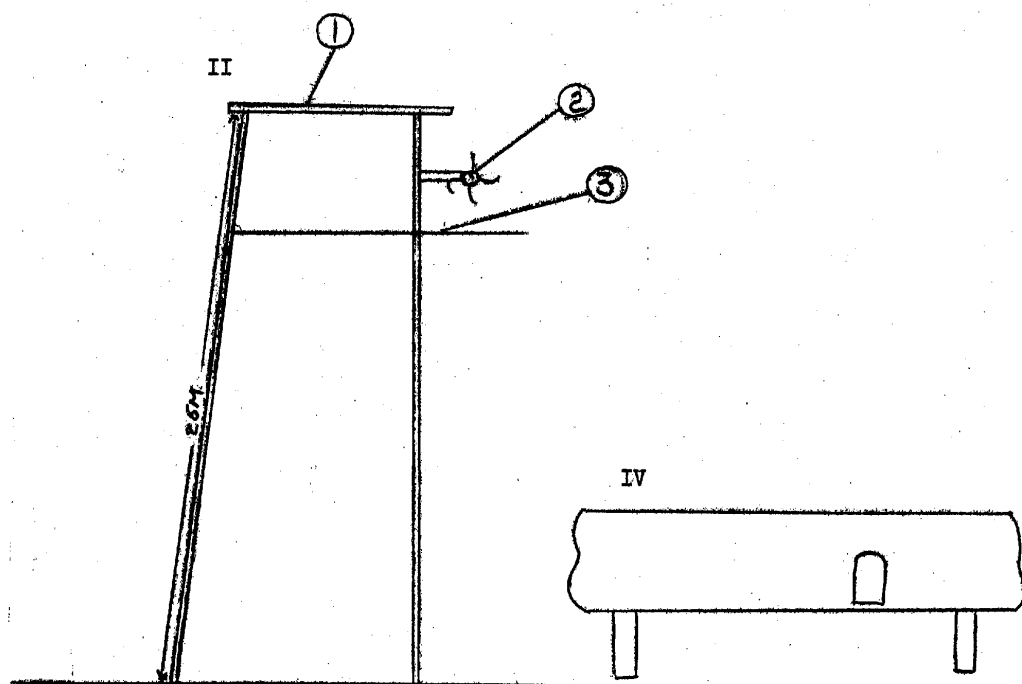
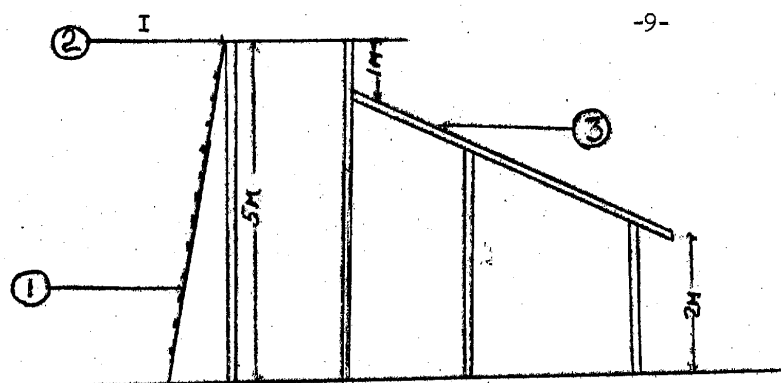
SECRET

25X1

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION







### Sketch of Training Equipment

25X1

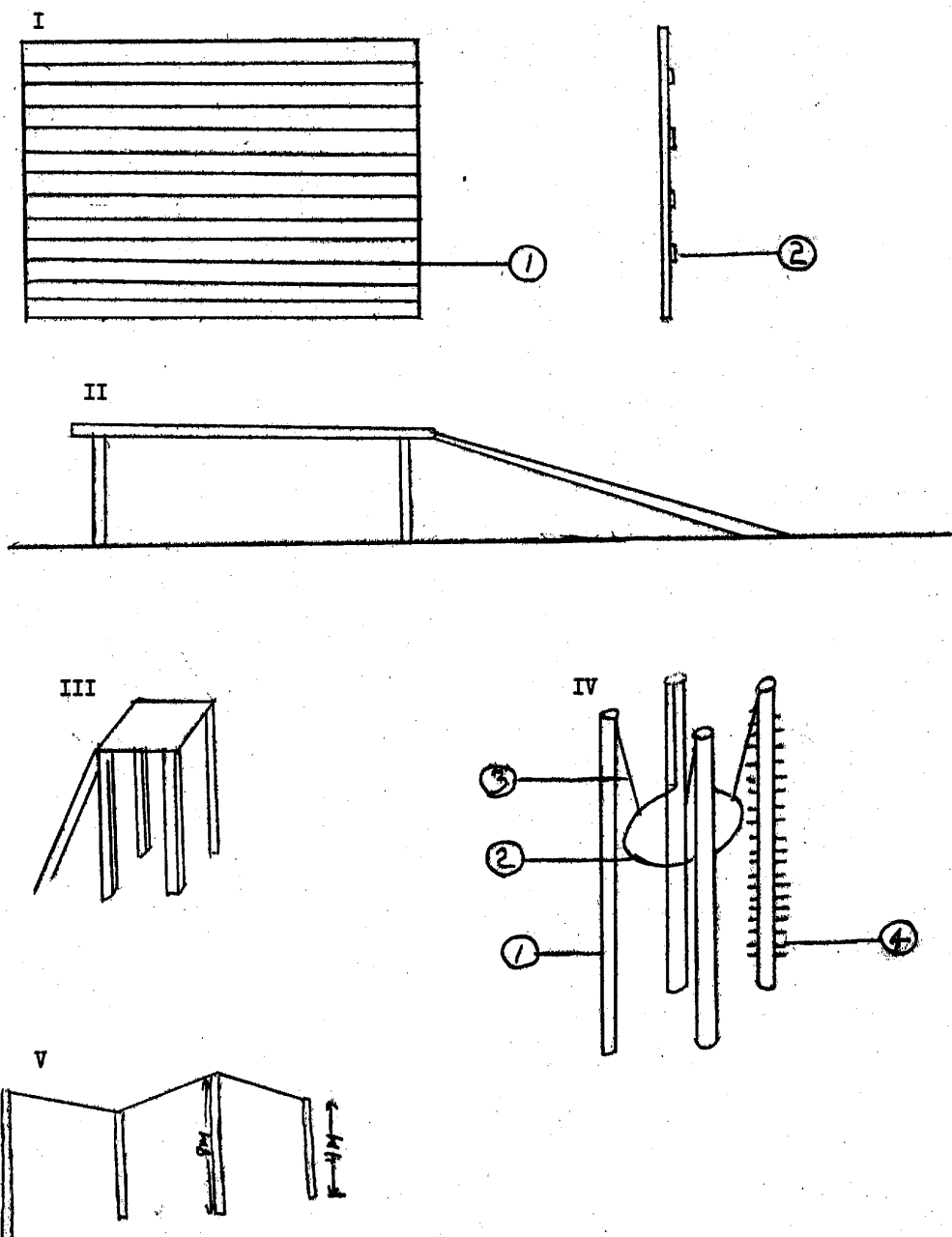
**SECRET**

ANNEX D

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

-10-



Sketch of Training Equipment

25X1

SECRET

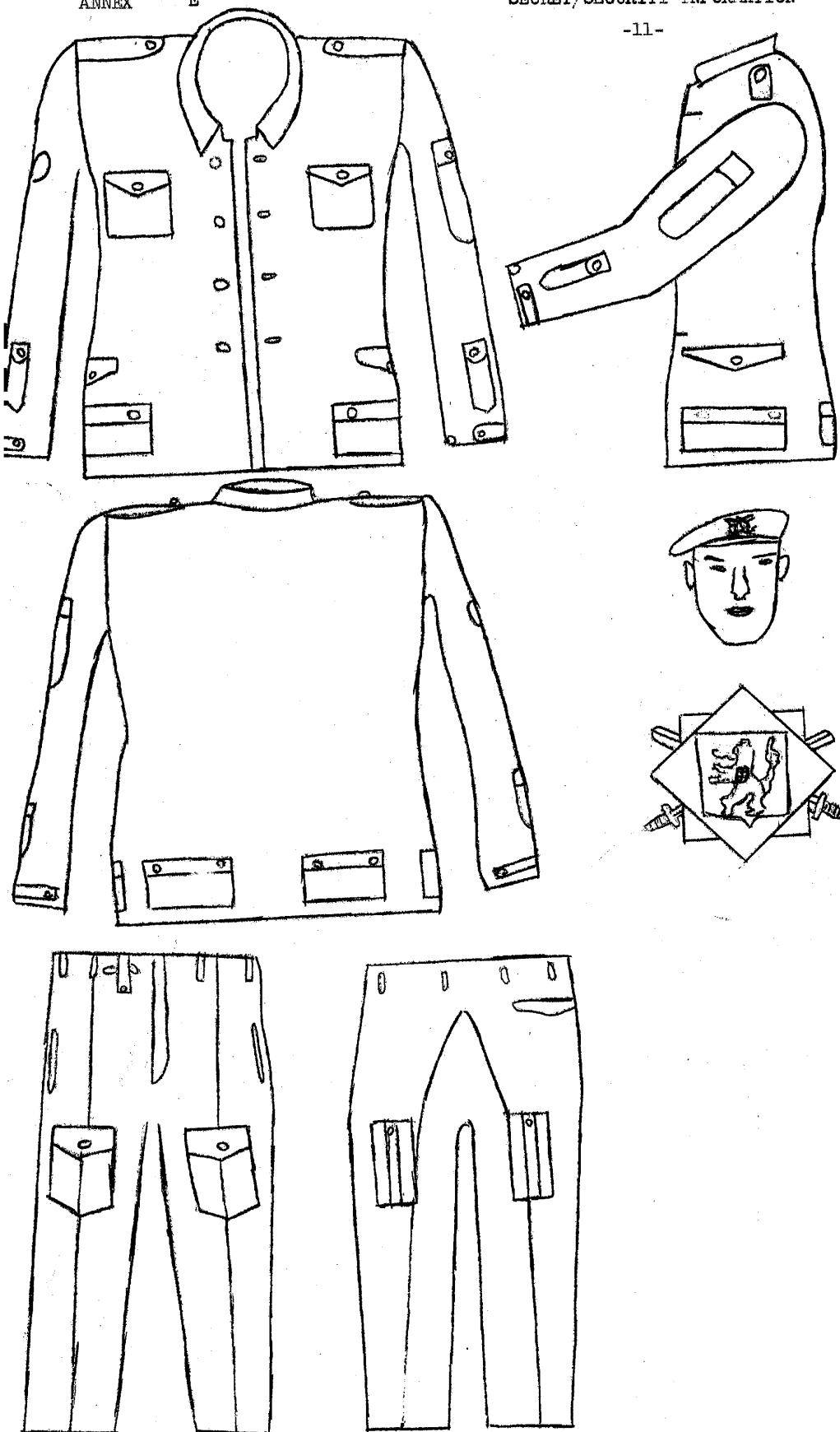
ANNEX

E

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

-11-



Sketch of Paratrooper Summer Field Uniform

25X1

SECRET

ANNEX F

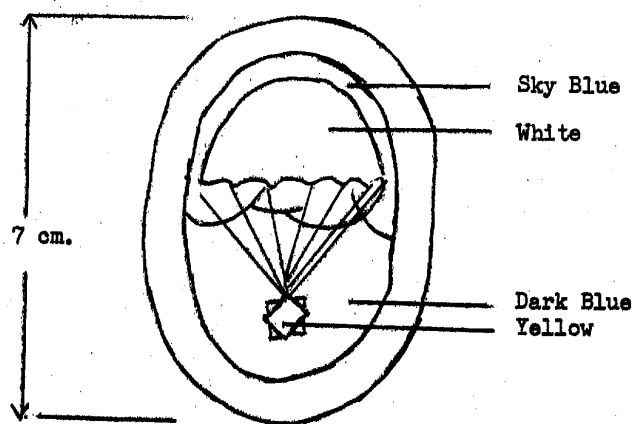
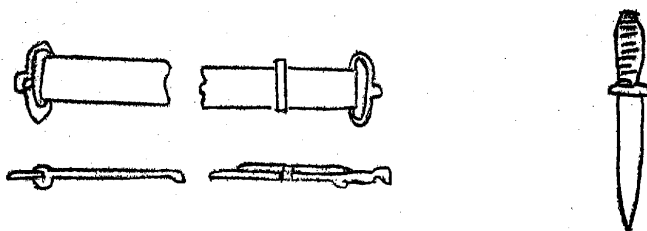
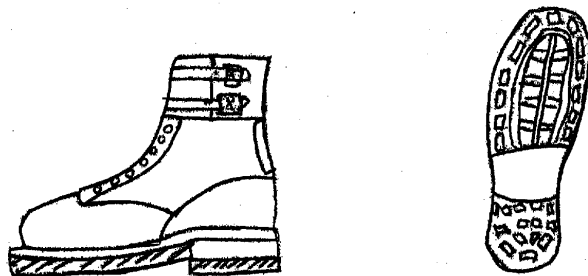
SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

-12-

Sketch of Additional Equipment Worn With Summer Uniform

25X1



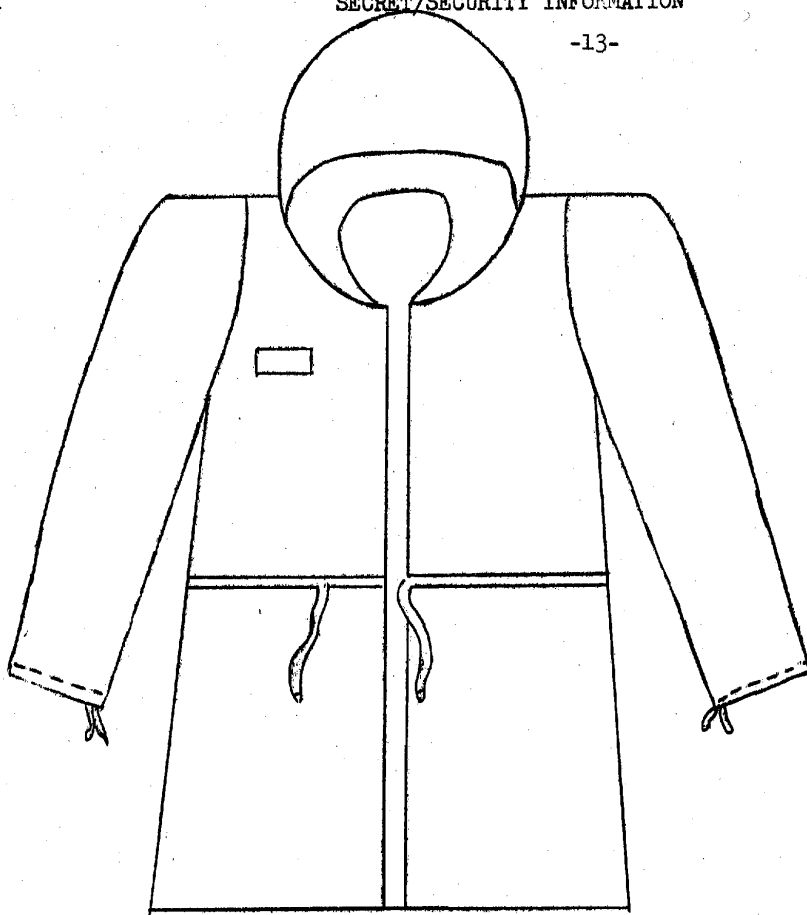
SECRET

ANNEX G

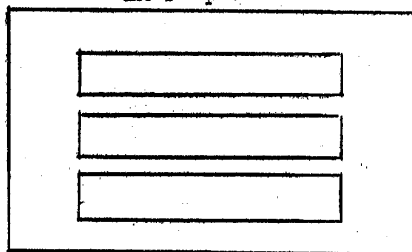
SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-13-

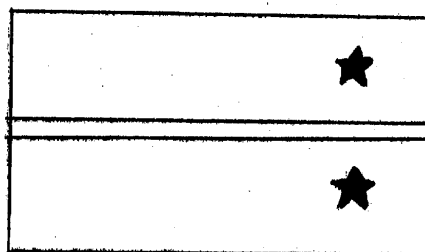
25X1



EM's Patch



Officers Patch



Sketch of Parka Worn by Paratroopers

25X1

SECRET